

this species, presented very many years ago to the British Museum by James Burton, the distinguished Egyptologist, came, in all likelihood, from the Eastern Desert about the latitude of Keneh.

*Eremias guttulata*, Licht.

Three specimens. This species is distributed all over Egypt, from Suez to Suakin.

*Psammodromis Schokari*, Forskål.

This specimen, in its almost pale fawn-colour and the presence of two darker-coloured lines along the back and the obscure dotting of the ventrals, especially on the sides, and distinct head-markings, resembles the individuals of this species found at Durrur to the south. The number of its ventrals (190) largely exceeds the number found there and at Suakin, and in this respect it conforms to snakes of this species found at Assuan. It has 118 caudals.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*Bird Books.*

*In Bird-land, with Field-glass and Camera.* By OLIVER G. PIKE. T. Fisher Unwin & Co. Pp. 1-280, with 83 photographs from Nature. 1900. Price 6s.

*The Birds of Eastern North America.* By CHARLES CORY. Printed for the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, Ill. 1899. Parts I., II.

THE strides which photography has made among us of late years we regard with a jealous eye. Not satisfied with ousting the beautiful wood and steel engravings which adorned the pages of our older books, it has gone now so far as to displace literature itself, so that many of the "books" which are thrust upon a long-suffering and defrauded public to-day are practically little more than collections of bad pictures served up with a sprinkling of worse text—added for appearance' sake.

To every rule, however, there are exceptions; and there are occasions when we feel real gratitude towards the enthusiastic photographer.

Ornithologists are without doubt indebted to the Kearton brothers for the work which they have done and recorded in this field. The

present little book 'In Bird-land,' by Mr. Pike, may well rank beside the best in this direction. The birds and their ways are for the most part feelingly described, and the author shows himself to be not only an observer but also a lover of nature. We are at one with him in his condemnation of the gamekeeper. The fauna of these Islands has suffered great and irreparable losses at his ignorant hands. But if the keeper is to be subjected to the lash of our displeasure, how much more so shall his employer, who signs the death-warrants which he executes?

Many of the illustrations of this book are excellent. Some are bad. The frontispiece forces a grumble from us. It is really beautiful, and it seems a pity that, since such work is possible, some of the inferior or less interesting pictures were not suppressed, and the remainder reproduced in the same way as the frontispiece. What was lost in quantity would be repaid a hundredfold in quality.

There is some excuse for the use of photography in reproducing actual outdoor scenes, or objects of natural history taken at first hand, but to call in its aid to reproduce bad drawings is indeed a sin. The illustrations to the 'Birds of Eastern North America' is a case in point. The figures in this work are for the most part grotesque; they could scarcely be worse.

As a "key" the book is doubtless useful. The terms, however, employed in describing the topography of a bird are often faulty, sometimes very much so. We must protest against the use of the word "tertials" to indicate the long inner secondaries of the wing. On page 3 "tertials" are defined as "the few remaining remiges which grow from the humerus." The feathers called "tertials" in the plates are only long inner secondaries: it is very doubtful whether the parapteron and hypopteron can legitimately be regarded as remiges.

With a little pruning and revising this book could be made worthy of its author.

*A Natural History of the British Lepidoptera. A Textbook for Students and Collectors.* By J. W. TUTT, F.E.S. Vol. II. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co., May 1900. Pp. viii, 584; plates vii.

THE first volume of Mr. Tutt's great work on British Lepidoptera appeared in January 1899, and already the second volume is lying before us. We are glad to find that the author has received so much encouragement that he is enabled to proceed with the book without delay and in the most elaborate manner. The second volume is thicker than the first by no less than 24 pages, and is similarly divided into two parts. The first part